

Makin Island (LHD-8), A Proud Name, Will Carry Raider Tradition to Sea

As her proud husband, the 33rd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps looked on, Mrs. Silke B. Hagee assumed her duties as sponsor of the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship, Makin Island. Named after the island in the Gilbert chain that the famed Carlson's Raiders attacked from submarines in August of 1942, Mrs. Hagee pointed out the heroism of the men who made that raid and contributed considerably to future Marine Corps operations.

Other speakers at the traditional keel laying were also very positive in their talks concerning the battle history, tradition and heritage of the Marine Raiders of World War II.
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— Official USMC Photo by Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien

WELL DONE! USMC Commandant, General Michael W. Hagee and Makin Island Raider Brian Quirk, (2B) seemed quite pleased that Makin Island (LHD-8) will join the fleet in 2006 and carry the name of historic Raider action of World War II.

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They included the President of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Dr. Philip A. Dur; Paul M. Robinson, Vice President of Ingalls Operations; RADM Charles S. Hamilton II, USN Program Executive Officer of Ships; and Ms. Allison Stiller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

A native of Mississippi and champion of our Armed Forces, the Honorable Trent Lott, United States Senator, was a featured speaker and offered high praise for the Raiders of the past and smooth sailing and God's speed to Marines of the future who will be aboard Makin Island and possibly in harm's way.

Probably the proudest of all in attendance was General Michael W. Hagee. The Commandant spoke with eloquence and sincerity when speaking of the Raiders of World War II. It was very apparent that he was extremely proud that construction of Makin Island (LHD-8) began on his watch. He was equally proud that his charming wife was selected to be named sponsor of Makin Island.

In addition to the above mentioned, there were dozens of Naval officers, shipyard executives, media, and various other interested people. For certain, Makin Island (LHD-8) is off to a great start and will serve us well into the 21st century.